

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

It is an object of this invention to provide an image processing system capable of detecting at a high speed whether copy-protected information is embedded in image data. For this purpose, the image processing system that practices this invention uses image data having a low resolution in detecting the embedded position of the copy-protected information. When the position is detected, the neighboring image is extracted in units of blocks on the basis of the pattern size and compared with the pattern image. If a specific pattern is detected as the result of comparison, the image is regarded as an original to be copy-protected, and appropriate processing is executed.

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